

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4819



Introduced by:
HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN & HON. REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies) of the 1987 Constitution, provides:

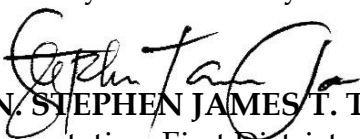
SECTION 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Under Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11223,¹ otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, the State shall adopt a framework that fosters a whole-of-system, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of health policies, programs, and plans.

Section 16 of Republic Act No. 11036,² otherwise known as the Mental Health Act, provides for the establishment and funding of community-based mental health care facilities, making access to mental health care accessible and closer to the people to wit:

Section 16. Community-based Mental Health Care Facilities. - The national government through the DOH shall fund the establishment and assist in the operation of community-based mental health care facilities in the provinces, cities and cluster of municipalities in the entire country based on the needs of the population, to provide appropriate mental health care services, and enhance the rights-based approach to mental health care. xxx

Despite the passage of the Mental Health Act, the continued prevalence of mental health issues, such as depression, suicide, and drug addiction, highlights a critical gap in the implementation. Therefore, the creation of supplementary legislation for the establishment of mental health units in municipal, city, provincial, and district hospitals, as well as the integration of mental health services into the primary healthcare system, is a necessary and strategic step to equip hospitals and primary healthcare providers to address these challenges. As such, the early recognition and approval of this bill is respectfully and earnestly sought.


HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN
Representative, First District of Samar.


HON. REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN
Representative, Second District of Samar

¹ An Act Instituting Universal Health Care for All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms in the Health Care System, and Appropriating Funds Therefor

² An Act Establishing a National Mental Health Policy for the Purpose of Enhancing the Delivery of Integrated Mental Health Services, Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Persons Utilizing Psychosocial Health Services, Appropriating Funds Therefor and Other Purposes

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AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS UNIT IN MUNICIPAL, CITY, PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITALS, PROVIDING FOR THEIR COMPOSITION, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “*Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2025*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State aims to promote a holistic and integrated approach to health by recognizing mental health as an essential foundation of every Filipino’s well-being. To achieve this, dedicated units in municipal, city, provincial, and district hospitals shall be established in order to provide accessible, affordable, and quality mental health services to everyone, with a strong emphasis on the integration of mental health services into the primary healthcare system.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:

- a) **Mental Health.**- as defined under Republic Act No. 11036, or the “Mental Health Act” refers to a state of well-being in which the individual realizes one's own abilities and potentials, copes adequately with the normal stresses of life, displays resilience in the face of extreme life events, works productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a positive contribution to the community.
- b) **Mental Health Service.** - refers to psychosocial psychiatric or neurologic activities and programs along the whole range of the mental health support services including promotion, prevention, treatment, and aftercare, which are provided by mental health facilities and mental health professionals.
- c) **Mental Health and Wellness Unit.** - refers to a specialized medical facility or a dedicated section within a hospital that provides care, treatment, and support for individuals with various mental health issues, illnesses, and

psychological disorders. The unit operates in close coordination with local government units (LGUs) within its jurisdiction, to ensure a comprehensive, community-based, and accessible mental health and support system.

- d) Primary care.- as defined under Republic Act No. 11223, or the “Universal Health Care Act” refers to initial-contact, accessible, continuous, comprehensive and coordinated care that is accessible at the time of need including a range of services for all presenting conditions, and the ability to coordinate referrals to other health care providers in the health care delivery system, when necessary.
- e) Primary care provider. - refers to a health care worker, with defined competencies, who has received certification in primary care as determined by the Department of Health (DOH) or any health institution that is licensed and certified by the DOH.

SECTION 4. Establishment of Mental Health and Wellness Units in Municipal, City, Provincial, and District Hospitals. - There shall be established a “Mental Health and Wellness Unit” in all municipal, city, provincial, and district hospitals dedicated to providing mental health services to persons affected by mental health conditions, as well as to individuals seeking mental health services or mental health support. The Unit shall act in coordination with the local government unit having jurisdiction over the hospital and shall be composed of, but not limited to:

- a) The Municipal/City/Provincial Health Officer of the LGU.
- b) The Municipal/City/Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer of the LGU.
- c) One (1) medical doctor with specialized training in mental health;
- d) At least two (2) psychiatric nurses for Provincial Mental Health and Wellness Units (PMHWU) and one (1) psychiatric nurse for Municipal, City, and District Mental Health and Wellness Units (M/C/DMHWU);
- e) One (1) Licensed Counselor or therapist.

SECTION 5. Powers and Functions of the Mental Health and Wellness Unit.
- The Municipal/City/Provincial/District Mental Health and Wellness Unit shall have the following powers and functions.

- a) Formulate and implement a comprehensive and integrated Mental Health and Wellness Program in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), other national government agencies, local government units within their respective jurisdiction, and non-governmental organizations with a focus on mental health advocacy.
- b) Conduct mental health education and awareness campaigns, including seminars, workshops, and distribution of information materials.
- c) Establish a clear and accessible referral system and access to higher levels of care in emergency or serious cases, in case the primary care provider or hospital does not have the specific capability or equipment necessary to provide the mental health service.

- d) Develop a system for the collection, monitoring, and analysis of data on mental health cases to inform policy and program development.
- e) Forge partnerships with schools, work places, and community organizations to promote mental health and wellness in all sectors.

SECTION 6. Responsibilities of LGUs, DOH, and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). -

a) LGUs:

- Create, review, and implement local mental health policies and ordinances that align with national guidelines and ensure effective mental health care within their jurisdiction.
- Allocating the necessary funds to support mental health programs and activities.
- Incorporate mental health care into their basic health services, ensuring its availability in all primary health facilities and hospitals within their jurisdiction.
- Establish, update, and modernize mental health facilities to provide adequate services.
- Refer patients to appropriate mental health facilities, professionals, and other mental health service providers for proper care.
- Provide regular training and capacity-building sessions on mental health first aid, suicide prevention, and basic counseling.

b) Department of Health (DOH):

- Develop and execute a national mental health program in collaboration with various government agencies, local government units, and other stakeholders
- Ensure that all mental health facilities offer a safe, therapeutic, and hygienic environment with adequate privacy.
- Improve research capacity and foster academic collaboration on national priorities in the field of advancing mental health.
- Establish protocols and provide training to all primary care facilities to enable the early detection, screening, and management of common mental health conditions.
- Allocate funds for the efficient implementation of mental health services consistent with this Act.

c) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD):

- Refer patients to mental health facilities, professionals, workers, and other mental health service providers for appropriate care.
- Collaborate with LGUs and the DOH to create and implement community resilience and psychosocial well-being training, especially offering psychosocial support during and after natural disasters and other calamities.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs), shall promulgate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective enforcement of this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. - For the initial implementation of this Act, the amount necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be included in the annual budget from the current year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Fund.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. - If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall continue to be valid and operational.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, rules or regulations and other issuances which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,